

MODIS Technical Team Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 2004
Building 33, Room E125

Vince Salomonson chaired the meeting. In attendance were Chuck McClain, Skip Reber, Bob Barnes, Dorothy Hall, Steve Kempler, Michael King, Ed Masuoka, Robert Wolfe, Jack Xiong, Chris Justice, and Barbara Conboy, with Yolanda Harvey taking the minutes.

1.0 Upcoming Events

- MODIS Science Team Meeting, — POSTPONED – Date TBD
- AGU Joint Assembly, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. May 17-21, 2004. Deadline for abstracts: February 12, 2004 (mail) and February 19 (electronic, before 9 pm EST) <http://www.agu.org> <http://www.agu.org/meetings/sm04/index.shtml>
- MODIS Vegetation Workshop II, University of Montana, 17 - 19 August 2004

2.0 Meeting Minutes

2.1 General Discussion

Salomonson indicated he has been working with Brandon Maccherone to address what directions the MODIS-related websites should be going in the future given that the previous and relevant MODIS Oceans web-site material is being folded into the Ocean Color website. It is tentatively concluded that the MODIS homepage will focus on keeping up with the instrument status, news and issue along with Science Team matters, while the ocean color, land, and atmospheres web sites will principally focus on the data products. The remaining question now is how to reflect that the various entities (land, ocean, atmospheres) are and can work together. It may be that if the product/"theme" (the intent for the future) websites are to have the same "look and feel" the HQ/Code Y will have to specify a standard or set of standards.

Salomonson is considering holding a telecon at the end of the month for product-producing members, somewhere around 25 people. Justice said that the Land group is planning on holding a producer workshop before the next team meeting. Salomonson said his aim at the telecon the status of procurements, the overall thrusts to be pursued by the Science Team, and to ask people to start preparing half-hour presentations on their products for the larger Science Team Meeting so as to inform the additional members of the status, accomplishments, and potential for the future. He suggested an hour sometime in the last three days of March for this telecon. He is now awaiting concurrence from HQ/D. Wickland on having the telecon and her being available for it. The Science Team Meeting itself probably won't happen until everyone has received or has authorization to spend their investigation funds. At this point it is not clear enough to guess when that might be.

2.2 Instruments

Xiong reported that both instruments are doing fine, with no anomalies.

2.3 DAAC

Kempler reported that the DAAC managers met with Code Y at HQ last week to better understand Code YO (Applications) and Code YS (Science) data management and

Information Technology strategy oriented directions. The meetings appeared to be mutually beneficial.

Kempler reported that last week's issue with the PDR server being down (server that passes data between DAACs and MODIS) has been resolved. Kempler noted that Miami/ Bob Evans, who apparently relies on the Goddard DAAC for Ocean Color QA data, is a large part of the QA distribution from the DAAC that pushes QA distribution over the 10% quota. This is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Kempler reported that the Cloudsat algorithms are ready to go. He also noted that the GES DISC/DAACs Near Archive Data Mining (NADM) environment, used very successfully by Andy Dessler, is getting new users. The DAAC was able to keep up with distribution demands because the volume sent to Dessler was reduced by 17 TB, an amount that allowed distribution not to exceed capacity.

2.4 SDST

Masuoka reported that EOSDIS/Ramapriyan asked when the MODAPS ICD would be modified to reflect the new plan for Ocean Color products to be archived and distributed by the SeaWiFS team. Masuoka said he plans to modify it this month.

On the data corruption issue, the GDAAC is taking the lead on scheduling time to remove the faulty router. There was also a failure on the PDR server, but that was recovered.

Masuoka reported that they did the lights-out test on MODAPS, and it ran at 4X instead of the normal 4.5x with humans, so that's acceptable.

Masuoka said that on the EDSIS evolution, Carnegie Mellon University is involved in a quality attribute workshop for evolution of Earth Science Enterprise data systems. The purpose of the workshop is to develop a shared vision between HQ and the ESDIS project and stakeholders for future changes to the system. Salomonson said that he would participate, and Masuoka said that he would send the relevant information on it to Salomonson.

Wolfe reported that the Aqua Project has taken a lot longer than expected to fix a problem with the Star-tracker, which is introducing a small random error into the Aqua MODIS geolocation. The Star-tracker anomaly is in the order of 10 arc seconds and is very difficult to remove otherwise. Wolfe was concerned that the fix might slip until after the Aura launch. At the Aqua telecom today, Salomonson asked the Aqua project to consider raising the fix's priority. Xiong said that he's noticed an anomaly in the Aqua M1 data recently, which seems to be related to geolocation. Wolfe said that he would look into it, and noted that they have to be careful using data near maneuvers.

2.5 Land

King reported that Prof. Jim Holton at the University of Washington died. He was an Atmospheric Dynamicist and the author of the most frequently used textbook on atmospheric dynamics used worldwide. He was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences, recipient of the Rossby Medal of the AMS, the Roger Revelle Medal of AGU, and numerous other awards. He was an Aura investigator on the HIRDLS team, which is scheduled to launch on June 17 of this year.

King reported that the MODIS Science Team list has been going back and forth, and Hall was accidentally left off, though Claire Parkinson caught the mistake. The work now involves asking people whether or not they want to be science team members. The current list of Team Members is up to 70, and is likely to get longer.

2.6 Oceans

Reber noted that he has been trying to find out the answers to a couple of Oceans-related questions for a couple of months. McClain addressed some of the questions by noting the intention is to focus on those products that the wider community wants. The SeaWiFS product suite provides a baseline in that regard, so they're going to approach MODIS the same way. At the April Ocean Color program meeting they will ask the community what other products they want, and go from there. Reber asked if the format and interface are going to be the same as it was on the DAAC, and McClain said that the interface will probably be slightly different, and the formats are SeaWiFS style so that users can use the SeaDAS system. Masuoka noted that Reber may want to create a separate space on his website for information about the Ocean Color data products.

Bob Barnes noted that SeaWiFS is making progress in using the Moon as independent calibration source for MODIS.

McClain reported that Oceans has made a lot of progress working with Xiong's group on getting the best m1s possible for Aqua. Oceans is also moving forward with a test plan to work out the MODIS-SeaWiFS differences, and so far it is going well. They presently are chasing down differences due to polarization/BRDF. There have been a number of telecons on polarization, correction tables, phase angles, etc.; essentially, zeroing in on causes. They're going to run tests with two different polarization configurations to see which reduces the issue most. McClain said that presently the seasonal shift is what they're trying to get a handle on, and polarization is the most likely candidate for that.

Salomonson asked if the SeaDAS community includes all of the Oceans community, and McClain said that it includes the majority, yes. Kempler noted that we also have to think about educators, applications people, etc., and McClain noted that because SeaDAS is free to everyone, technically, they are included.

3.0 Action Items

3.1 New Action Items

3.1.1 Harvey to check to make sure that McClain is on the right distribution lists for minutes. (Closed)

3.2 Old Action Items

3.2.1 Masuoka to ask Feldman if Miami still needs a separate feed of Level 1A subsetted data from the GDAAC, in that Feldman is also sending them Level 1A subsetted data. Status: Closed. At this Tech Team meeting it was clear that Miami can't use Feldman's data pool for the subsetted data they require since it only includes Aqua products.

3.2.2 Tech Team to further discuss TRW using MODIS data for validation of the NPP/NPOESS production process.

Status: Open.

3.2.3 Kempler to bring back some proposals for how the disciplines can deal with the DAAC distribution problem.

Status: Open.